

DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP

A monthly magazine devoted to the collecting, preservation and literature of the old-time dime and nickel novels, libraries and popular story papers.

Vol. 31, No. 2

February 15, 1963

Whole No. 365



DIME NOVEL SKETCHES No. 41

BOYS OF AMERICA

A late comer to the story paper field. Published by Street & Smith, October 5, 1901 to October 17, 1903. 107 issues. Size $16\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ with a full size black and white illustration imitative of Happy Days, Frank Tousey's long-lived story paper. 16 pages to the issue. Contained some stories by Gilbert Patten under the pseudonym Herbert Bellwood. Also contains some stories by "Frank Merriwell" (John H. Whitson) and thereby becomes a must for the Merriwell collector. A complete listing of stories is contained in Bibliographic Listing No. 1 available from the publisher at 50 cents.

Dime Novel Collecting

By Charles Bragin

Very few book dealers and rare book collectors are aware of the large numbers of dime novel collectors, and the large sums they spend, as sales are usually private and receive no publicity.

Since I retired from active export business and taken up dime novel collecting, I have sold over \$100,000.00 worth of these thrillers at prices up to \$100 each, and single sales up to \$4,000.00.

Other dime novel collectors have made large sales over the years, usually from their stock of duplicates, as they rarely sell from their own collections.

Records of auction sales of dime novels show prices paid run from 100 to 1200 times original publisher prices—very few rare books can equal such increases in values.

The January issue of this magazine lists the names of hundreds of dime novel collectors and buyers.

The Dime Novel Club, established in 1945, includes in its large membership, leaders in all fields—finance, industry, education, the Fourth Estate, Government, etc.—Robert Moses, Chip Roberts, Erle Stanley Gardner, Jerry Giesler, Col. Edward Eagan, etc. We sold dime novels to the late F. D. R.—his favorites, the famous Deadwood Dick novels.

Some of the collectors are in the millionaire class—for example, Alan Kirby, who had built up in the past 15 years a fine dime novel collection—his favorites—the famous sleuth stories of Old King Brady, in the Secret Service Weekly—a file of which he bought for \$1,200.00—original publisher price \$35.

Libraries are mainly interested in

the early Beadle dime novels—which are, incidentally, the base of all important dime novel collections—the rarest and highest in value and prices.

Most private collectors are interested on sentimental basis—collecting their boyhood favorites. Among the old, old timers, the favorites, besides the Beadles—are the Deadwood Dick novels, the S. F. invention stories of Frank Reade and Jack Wright (incidently the Jack Wright "airship" dime novels were favorite reading of boys during the boyhood of the Wright Brothers, and may have influenced their careers), also the lurid James Boys novels—one of the readers of these bandit dime novels ended up in the U. S. Supreme Court.

The later generations of dime novels collect the "color cover" nickel novels read by millions of boys from 1900 up—so the most collected of all are the famous Merriwell novels, in the original Tip Top Weekly and the later "thick book" reprints in the Merriwell Library.

An odd angle in dime novel buying is the coming into the market, of industries adding to their libraries dime novels relating to their fields. For example, the Ethyl Corporation has a fine collection of dime novels relating to the Oil Industry, exhibited in the N. W. U. Library.

The Dime Novel Club since 1945 has made facsimile reprints of 56 rare dime novels, to supply the great demand which is impossible to cover with original editions, for collectors, readers and libraries.

Libraries have long since recognized and treasure dime novels, as unique and genuine Americana.

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SPECIAL

Members of our Dime Novel Club offer the following fine collections FOR SALE, or possible SWAPS. Let us know what you want and we will try to fix a deal to make everybody happy.

BEADLE PUBLICATIONS—the "base" of all great dime novel collections.

Beadle Dime Novels—the first and rarest of the Beadles—**COLLECTION** of 276 novels, including the first published—1866 to 1871.

Beadle Pocket Novels—which appeared with above—**COLLECTION** of 100 novels, pub. 1874 to 1884.

Beadle Dime Library—**COLLECTION** of 950 novels, published 1878 to 1898.

Beadle Half Dime Liby—**COMPLETE COLLECTION** 987 novels, pub. 1877-1904.

Beadle Boys Library—the rare large size original edition, **COMPLETE SET** of 103 novels, pub. 1881 to 1884.

Beadle Boys Library—the small size edition, pub. 1884 to 1890—**COLLECTION** of 160 novels.

Beadle Pocket Library—**COLLECTION** of 250 novels, pub. 1884 to 1890.

DEADWOOD DICK NOVELS—**COMPLETE SET** of the 129 famous D. D. novels, published in the Beadle Half Dime Library 1877 to 1904.

Deadwood Dick Novels—a small collection of 96 of these novels in the H. D. Lib.

BEADLE POPULAR LIBRARY. COMPLETE SET of the 48 novels, pub. 1891, very rare.

MUNRO 10 CENT NOVELS—collection 57 of these rare novels, pub. 1863-1875.

The MERRIWELL SAGA—collection of the famous Frank and Dick Merriwell novels.

TIP TOP WEEKLY—**COMPLETE SET** of the 986 novels, as they originally were published in this 5c weekly 1896 to 1918.

Tip Top Weekly—another collection of 916 these novels, 50 shy of a complete set.

Merriwell Library—complete set of the 245 volumes, pub. from 1911 to the 1930's—these are the paper back "thick book" reprints of the Merriwell stories

NICK CARTER WEEKLY—**COLLECTION OF** 450 of the famous Nick Carter color cover "nickel" novels pub. 1900 to 1915.

MAGNET LIBRARY—collection of 400 volumes—"thick book" paper back reprints of the Nick Carters, pub. 1910 to the 1930's.

BRAVE & BOLD WEEKLY—**COMPLETE SET** of the 429 color cover nickel novels pub. 1903 to 1911.

BUFFALO BILL WEEKLY—**COMPLETE SET** of the 364 famous nickel novels published 1912 to 1918.

MOTOR STORIES—**COMPLETE SET** of the 32 nickel novels, pub. 1909—stories of early motor cars, airplanes, etc.

DIAMOND DICK, JR., WEEKLY—collection of 300 of these nickel novels pub. 1896 to 1910.

ROUGH RIDER WEEKLY—collection of 50 of these 5c novels, pub. 1904 to '06.

OLD SLEUTH LIBRARY—**COMPLETE SET** of these famous sleuth stories, 101 novels, pub. 1885 to 1905.

OLD SLEUTH WEEKLY—**COMPLETE SET** of the 203 nickel novels published 1908 to 1912.

FRANK READE LIBRARY—**COMPLETE SET** of these famous early "scientific fiction" stories—191 novels published 1892 to 1898.

OLD CAP COLLIER LIBRARY—the most lurid and famous of all "dime novel" sleuth stories—**COLLECTION** of 300 novels published 1883 to 1900.

COMIC LIBRARY—collection of 95 of these early comic novels published 1892 to 1896.

FREE. Send for our catalog of Dime Novel Club reprints published from 1945-62.

Charles Bragin, Secretary—The Dime Novel Club, 1525 W. 12th, Brooklyn 4, N.Y.

The Library of Congress, under Copyright law, should have all the dime novels published—but over the years most of them were borrowed by Government officials and never returned. Finally the Rare Book Curator gathered all that were left and placed them in the rare book vaults, with its rarest books, for future generations.

Henry Huntington spent millions of dollars for rare books, now conserved in the Huntington Library. He left the spending to his book agents—but bought dime novels personally—paid \$15,000.00 for a Beadle dime novel collection—which the dealer originally bought from the Beadle publishers for \$20. On his many transcontinental train trips, he would stuff his pockets with his favorite Beadles to read enroute.

The great New York Public Library keeps its fine Beadle collection in its rare book rooms, away from public handling, to be seen only on special permission, which is rarely granted.

The finest library general collection of dime and nickel novels is in the University of Minnesota—left to it by the late George Hess, one of the founding members of the Dime Novel Club.

Yale U. Library has built up over the years, a fine collection of the Merriwell novels—and particularly prizes its great Gimbel collection of Scientific Fiction dime novels—the Frank Reade and Jack Wright “boy inventor” dime novels, published before 1900—now on display at the library.

Brandeis U. Library has a unique collection of Dime Novel Judaica, presented by Mrs. Isabel Cogert of Woodbridge, Conn. Her neighbor, wealthy dime novel collector Edward Levy also presented to this library a complete set of the 245 volumes of the Merriwell Library.

Many libraries have dime novel collections pertaining to their localities—University of Texas, through purchases and gifts, has the finest collection of dime novels relating to Texas. Other libraries have regional collections. To name a few, U. S. C., U. of Cal., L. A. Public Library, U. of Colorado, U. of Denver, U. of Idaho, etc.

We have sold or presented dime nov-

els to hundreds of Libraries—and our Dime Novel Club reprints can be found in practically every large library in the country—College and Public.

Dime novels have received great publicity over the years, in national magazines, newspapers, books, etc., and 1962 was no exception. Besides newspapers, feature stories were published in McCall's magazine, Diners Club magazine, Sports Illustrated—mostly on the Merriwell stories and their influence on sports, etc.

Soon to appear will be a book by Gilbert Patten—author of these Merriwells—his life, written by himself.

A top writer is now under contract to a publisher for a book on the famous Nick Carter sleuth stories.

Dime Novel collectors never quit—and seldom die—the Dime Novel Club has members in the 80's and 90's—the writer at 74 is junior to many of the members. But new and younger collectors—some in the wealthy class—constantly come into the field, to keep the hobby alive and growing.

Values constantly increase, due to increasing demand and diminishing supply. Book scouts have long since stopped searching for them—few turn up these days. A rule of thumb rating of values is that dime novels increase in price 100% every 10 years.

AT ALL TIMES—

Have old time dime and nickel novels for exchange. W. M. Burns, 15 Cottage St., Rockland, Maine.

Back numbers Reckless Ralph's Dime Novel Roundup, Nos. 1 to 237 for sale. Some reprints, all interesting, 12 for \$1.00 or all 237 numbers for \$18.00 postpaid.

Ralph F. Cummings
161 Pleasant St., So. Grafton, Mass.

MERRIWELL STORIES in TIP TOP WEEKLY BOUGHT & SOLD

Stories of Frank & Dick Merriwell, and Tip Top Weekly, are my specialty. Have hundreds in good condition at reasonable prices. Send want list.

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453 455 457 458 460 461 478 479. 75c each.

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113 115 116 118 119 122 123 124 125 127 133 134 135 140 141 142
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106 107 109 110 111 113 114 115 116 117 122 123 124 127 131 133 134
135 136 137 139 141 143 145 149 to 158 160 161 162 164 to 169 182
184 to 210 212 213 214 215 216 220 221 222 224 to 241 243 to
250 254 to 264 267 269 270 271 272 273 276 279 281 285 286 288 to
296 299 to 309 311 to 317 319 322 324 325 326 328 to 334 337 341 to
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75c each.

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Brave and Bold: #3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 16 15 19 All perfect at \$3.00 each or the 15 for \$35.00.

#40 47 74 83 97 All Perfect at \$3.00.

#42 51 56 71 80 90 99 Almost Perfect at \$2.50.

#101 102 104 108 110 111 112 113 115 128 129 130 133 138 139 140 142 145 146 148 149 151 153 154 157 164 167 172 174 175 179 182 183 184 192 193 Almost perfect at \$2.00. #90 122 123 128 137 143 159 168 179 183 186 Good at \$1.75. #396 Fair 90c. #207 208 249 251 259 264 266 268 270 276 278 286 294 297 298 All Perfect \$2.00. #233 277 303 324 326 334 Good at \$1.50. #210 256 257 260 269 272 273 274 275 279 280 282 284 287 Almost Perfect \$1.75 each. #302 330 331 336 337 344 345 347 349 350 354 355 360 363 All Perfect \$1.75 each. #303 304 305 306 312 314 315 317 319 321 322 323 324 326 334 338 339 343 353 361 368 Almost Perfect \$1.50 each. #396 just fair 90c. #425 426 427 428 429 All Perfect at \$1.75 each. #405 407 409 almost perfect \$1.50. #423 \$1.25. #420 90c. #420 50c. 87 77 424 No covers at 10c each.

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Pluck & Luck: #730 839 840 841 842 843 844 845 846 847 848 849 850 851 852 853 854 855 856 857 858 859 860 862 863 864 865 866 867 869 868 All Perfect at \$1.50. #298 Circus number—perfect, \$2.50. #340 407 453 502 569 580 599 632 Almost perfect at \$1.75 each. #659 793 360 445 447 625 678 Good \$1.50. #434 75c.

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All novels listed as perfect are just like the day they came off the press.

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ROY E. SWANSTROM

4308 N. W. 2nd Street

Fort Lauderdale, Florida

THE GOOD OLD DIME NOVEL DAYS

Devoted to nostalgic remembrances of dime novel readers of a by-gone era. Send in your experiences and remembrances. What was your first dime novel? Did you ever get remonstrated for reading them? Can you recall an occasion or the circumstances under which a specific dime novel was read? Don't mind the grammar or writing. We will edit it for you.

It is the early 1900's. It is a Friday afternoon when all the weeklies appear in the various stationery store windows often arranged with clips on a string across the windows. Boy! How I would travel a mile in any direction to gaze on the covers of the latest ones. Some readers called them libraries. My favorites were Tip Top, Secret Service and Snaps. Some stores exchanged the old ones, one for two. Years afterwards I thought to renew my boyhood and every week I had Secret Service delivered with the morning newspaper. One morning, not having been removed, it dropped out on the floor of the subway in plain view of the passengers. Some smiled, some snickered out loud and others gave me strange looks. I did feel I was back in school with the teacher looking at me. During study period in school a geography very adequately concealed one of the weeklies. They were 5 cents then and are collectors items now. Tempus Fugit.—Daniel A. Driscoll, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Secret Service is my favorite weekly. When I started reading dime novels I lived as a boy, for some years, in Chinatown, Boxter Street and the Bowery; my father being in business in that neighborhood. My recollection is of the Bowery in its Tenderloin days of "color" which movies have in vain tried to picture, streets crowded with sailors of all nationalities, visitors from all over the world, a saloon in every building from Chinatown to Cooper Union. That's why my favorites are the Chinatown stories of Old and

Young King Brady.—Charles Bragin, Brooklyn, N. Y.

NOTE ON FOSTER-WRENN ARTICLE

A letter from Stanley Pachon about the Foster-Wrenn article contains information I'd like to pass along to the rest of you. First he mentions that the pseudonym "Louis Arunde" should be "Louis Arundel," which is quite correct, and he says further, "This name was attached to the 6 vol. Motor Boat Boys Series put out by Donohue. But I have always assumed that Rathborne was the author of this series, unless some of the books were written by Foster and some by Rathborne."

It could be that Foster and Rathborne wrote the Motor Boat Boys Series together, although Foster did quite a few books for Donohue on his own.

Mr. Pachon supplies the missing titles of the Donohue publications where I speak of "In 'Alaskan Waters' and some other Northern books for boys" and I quote:

"I believe the titles of the Northern series of books you had in mind were the Clint Webb Series:

"1. Swept Out to Sea, or, Clint Webb Among the Whalers.

2. The Frozen Ship, or Clint Webb Among the Sealers.

3. From Sea to Sea, or, Clint Webb on the Windjammer.

4. The Sea Express, or, Clint Webb and the Sea Tramp.

"They were published by Donohue, but sorry I don't have the dates. I am quite certain that Foster wrote for the Stratemeyer Syndicate. Since the Ruth Fielding Series was published by Cupples & Leon, who in the early years bought all their juvenile material from the Syndicate, there can be no doubt that he was one of that group of writers." End of quote. The pseud. "Bertram Leghar" should be "Lebhar" and No. 499 of the Buffalo Bill Stories, Buffalo Bill and the Men of Mendon by Foster, was left out of the list of 136 titles through error.

—Ed. Leithead

A DIME NOVEL COLLECTOR'S BOOK SHELF

THE HOUSE OF BEADLE AND ADAMS. Vol. III. A list of corrections and new information to be added to the first two volumes. Same author and publisher.

HORATIO ALGER, JR. A Biography and Bibliography of the Best Selling Author of all time. By Frank Gruber. Gover Jones Press, 11677 Santa Monica Blvd., West Los Angeles 25, Calif. Limited to 750. A hurried biography and a bibliography of Alger first editions.

NEWSY NEWS

Ralph F. Cummings

161 Pleasant St., So. Grafton, Mass.

Vicente Book Store, 11980 San Vicente Blvd., Los Angeles 49, Calif. has for sale at long last, Horatio Alger, Jr., A Bibliography and Biography, by Frank Gruber. It contains reproductions of 64 Alger first edition book jackets. All Alger titles are fully collated and whenever possible, reproduced photographically. This book is a must, and sells for \$10.00 ppd.

Oct. 8-9-10 ye scribe, Ralph Cummings and Herbert Kenny of Framingham, Mass., went on a 3 day trip up to Rockland, Maine, and back. We visited with Ken Daggett, Bill Burns, George French, and Mrs. Fred Snowman, also we visited our relations up there. We had a very good trip up and back, except when we got off the road

and went 30 miles or more out of our way, when we cut across country to visit George French. That sure was a fine trip, although short and sweet as a fellow says.

In 1869 or 70 a story paper called "Our Boys in Blue" was published in Cincinnati, Ohio, by Moore & McGrew, at 230 Main St., same size as other story papers, 8 pages. "Old Glory" is clear across the top of the story paper. Who has any to sell, for I am interested, your editor of this column. I wonder if our brother member Carl Linville ever heard of this story paper before?

Wallace H. Waldrop, Greenville, S. C., has built a good sized room to hold all his old books, songs and magazines. Good for you Wally!

Ed Ingraham remembers in his early schooldays, when he had a book called "Kidnapped at the Altar," by Laura Jean Libby. She sure was a very fine writer. Maybe you wonder how I know. I myself have read many of her novels of love, romance and mystery. Maybe I'm a dyed in the wool editor of this column, but I sure liked to read the Libby novels.

Albert Johnson wrote me if I could obtain a copy of the Sept. 1962 issue of "Playboy," to do so, so I did. There was a very fine article well illustrated with front covers from the various rare magazines such as "The Spider," "Horror," "Terror," "Nick Carter," and others. A nostalgia by Charles Beaumont, and other writers such as Nick Carters, etc.

To our friends—we urge your subscription to this monthly dime novel magazine, the only published—interesting for old time readers, as well as collectors and Librarians. We have been subscribers for over 20 years.

STORY PAPERS

Happy Days Weekly—COMPLETE COLLECTION, 1496 issues pub. from 1894 to 1924, in bound volumes.

YOUNG MEN OF AMERICA—Complete set of the small size edition Nos. 526 to 635, in bound volumes, pub. 1889.

GOLDEN WEEKLY—continuation of Young Men of America, COMPLETE SET of 145 issues published 1889 to 1892.

BOYS OF NEW YORK—the greatest of all story papers—a nice collection of 194 issues, published 1885 to 1892.

CHARLES BRAGIN

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Brooklyn 4, N. Y.

FOR SALE

- Buffalo Bill Stories: #432 \$1.00. #584 50c.
 Fame and Fortune: #27 uncut \$1.00. #647 \$1.00. #698 631 75c.
 Young Athletes Weekly: #1 \$1.25. #4 \$1.00.
 Rough Rider Weekly: #97 \$1.25. #148 173 174 at \$1.00. #152 75c.
 Young Rough Riders: #16 \$1. Wide Awake Wkly. #161 159 at \$1.00 each.
 All Sports Library #5 6 8 \$1.25 each. Young Rover Lib. #4 48 50 \$1.50 each.
 Red Raven Lib. #24 \$2.00. #50 \$1.50. New Carter Weekly. #401 75c.
 Bowery Boy 54 56 57 63 70 96 98 all uncut at \$2.00 each
 Three Chums #8 \$1.25. All Around Weekly #9 75c. Dick Dobbs #7 50c.
 Union Jack #1350 1349 each 50c.
 Jesse James Stories: #1 Colored front same as original. Printed 1938. Perfect \$1
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 23 24 25 37 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 63 64 68 97 Fine
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 New Buffalo Bill Weekly—all very nice: #30 33 61 62 65 66 74 75 77 79 78 80
 83 84 85 86 87 89 90 91 92 93 96 97 98 99 each \$1.00. #100 101 102
 103 105 109 110 112 121 122 123 125 138 149 156 130 131 133 134
 35 37 39 42 146 151 152 153 154 157 158 165 171 193 each 75c. #210
 211 215 241 242 299 317 331 33 344 345. Each 50c. The whole lot \$30.
 82 issues.
 The Dime Novel Days article in Saturday Eve Post Feb. 1931, complete, fine
 article by Gilbert Patten in 2 issues. Both issues perfect, \$3.00.
 Article about Dime Novels by Pete Martin, Sat. Eve. Post, Aug. 1946. Nice 75c.
 Postage paid on all orders over \$5.00

ROY E. SWANSTROM

4308 N. W. 2nd Street

Fort Lauderdale, Florida

THE FOLLOWING BIBLIOGRAPHIC LISTINGS HAVE BEEN ISSUED

1	Boys of America (Street & Smith), by Edward T. LeBlanc	.50
2	Golden Hours by Donald L. Steinhauer	1.00
3	Golden Argosy/Argosy by Stanley A. Pachon	1.00
4	Beadles Frontier Series, by Denis R. Rogers	.50
5	Frank Leslie's Boys of America, by J. P. Guinon	.50
6	The Hearthstone, by Denis R. Rogers	.50
7	Frank Leslie's Boys' and Girls' Weekly, by J. P. Guinon	1.00
8	Bright Days, by Capt. C. G. Mayo	.50
9	Golden Hours (English Edition), by Denis R. Rogers	.50
10	Street & Smith's Literary Album, by Capt. C. G. Mayo	.50
11	Saturday Night, by Denis R. Rogers	2.00

Issued in Printed Booklet form, fully illustrated

These are the same size and stock used as in printing the Roundup.

1	Golden Days, by Donald L. Steinhauer	2.00
2	Munro's Ten Cent Novels, by Denis R. Rogers	2.00
3	Nickel Library, by Albert Johannsen	2.00
4	Good News, Army and Navy Weekly, Half Holiday, Boys Holiday and The Holiday, by Capt. C. G. Mayo	2.00

Order from

Edward T. LeBlanc, Publisher, 87 School St., Fall River, Mass.

MAGAZINES — DIME NOVELS — STORY PAPERS

Ivers Celebrated Laughing Series. (1886-1891). Colored covers, illustrated. Old time humorous stories by Bricktop and others. Some illustrated by Thomas Worth. 15 different, probably complete set, \$22.50.

Might and Main, 5 average numbers, \$5.00.

Beadle's Fireside Library. Bound volume of 22 nos. \$5.00.

Fireside Companion #1461 to 1613 (good; paper fair) \$15.00, send \$1.00 for 5 different numbers.

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